

REMARKS

Claims 28-45 were examined and reported in the Office Action. Claims 41 and 42 are rejected. Claims 28-40 and 43-45 are objected to. Claims 28, 41 and 45 are amended. Claim 42 has been cancelled. Claims 28-41 and 43-45 remain.

Applicant requests reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks.

It is asserted in the Office Action that Claims 28, 41 and 45 are objected to due to informalities. In regards to Claims 28 and 45, the Examiner suggesting the language used within the phrase "to be moveable both with and relative to the primary bolt" be changed to read --to be moveable together with the primary bolt and relative to the primary bolt--, for clarification, and, in regards to Claim 41, the Examiner suggesting the language used within the phrase "an indication visually apparent from externally of the body of the latch device" be changed to read --an indication visually apparent from an external surface of the body of the latch device-- for clarification.

In response, Applicant has amended Claims 28, 41 and 45 as suggested by the Examiner. Approval is respectfully requested.

It is asserted in the Office Action that Claims 41-44 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particular point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Claims 42-44 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

In response, Applicant has amended Claims 41, 43 and 44 to overcome the 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph rejection and to further clarify the claims.

Approval is respectfully requested.

It is asserted in the Office Action that Claim 41 is rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Pullen (US 5927769). In response, Applicant has amended Claim 41 to incorporate the subject matter of Claim 42, which has been cancelled. Additionally, Claims 43

and 44 have been amended to depend directly from currently amended Claim 41 instead of Claim 42, which has been cancelled.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection to Claim 41 under 35 USC 102(b) is respectfully requested.

Since the Examiner indicated that Claims 28-40 and 45 would be allowable if the suggested changes, as noted in the Office Action, are included within claims 28 and 45 for clarification of the movement capabilities of the secondary bolt with respect to the primary bolt, and since the Examiner indicated that Claims 42-44 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as to Claim 42 to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, it is believed that all of the pending claims, namely, Claims 28-41 and 43-45 are now in condition for allowance, which early action is requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would be useful in moving the case forward, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (310) 207-3800.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR, & ZAFMAN LLP

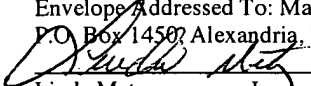
Dated: January 16, 2008

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Linda Metz

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